

--- [0037] Therefore, in the area of the lens other than the area Rc; the lateral chromatic aberration is generated. Accordingly, the two laser beams which have different wavelengths and are emitted by the laser diodes 10a and 10b, respectively, are separated as indicated by solid and broken lines when they are incident on the light receiving element 31. Therefore, the light receiving element 31 outputs two synchronizing pulses at every scan. It should be noted that the optical paths indicated by two-dotted lines represent an imaginary optical path when the separation mirror 30 is not provided. ---

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1, 2 and 5-8 as follows (A “**marked up**” copy of these claims is provided as an attachment to this Reply):

1. (Once Amended - Clean Text) A scanning optical system for exposing a predetermined imaging area on a surface to be scanned to a plurality of laser beams, comprising:
- a plurality of light sources that emit a plurality of laser beams having different wavelengths, respectively;
 - a single deflector which deflects the plurality of laser beams simultaneously;
 - an imaging optical system that converges the plurality of laser beams deflected by